

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted preliminarily to the Examiner's examination of this application following the filing of a Request for Continued Examination ("RCE") on December 16, 2004. By way of background, a Final Office Action was issued in this application on June 16, 2004. On November 16, 2004, an Amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.111 was filed, but was not acted upon within the six-month statutory time period following the Final Office Action. Accordingly, the RCE was filed on December 16, 2004, requesting entry of the Amendment. Meanwhile, after further review of the Amendment, additional claim changes are submitted herewith that will simplify the issues and believe to place the case in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that this Amendment be entered and considered by the Examiner prior to the next examination on the merits.

By this Amendment, independent claims 25, 38, 54, and 69 have been amended, as well as dependent claims 85, 86, and 89. Thus, claims 25-32, 34, 37-45, 47, 49, 54, 59, 69-71, 73-75, and 85-89 are pending. Claims 25, 38, 54, and 69 are the only independent claims.

The primary rejection in the final rejection (the last office action) resides in a combination of references. Specifically, the Examiner has rejected the claims over the core combination of the Boyle et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,577,209 in view of Garfinkel et al., Practical UNIX Security ("Garfinkel"). The critical paragraph of the Official Action that must be addressed is ¶12, where the Examiner acknowledges that Boyle does not disclose that the network security controller generates a plurality of user profiles for a single user, wherein a single user selects a profile from the plurality of user profiles to access the restricted designations. However, the Examiner states that this feature is commonly integrated into systems that maintain discretionary and mandatory access controls on its users, citing Garfinkel which discloses a UNIX system. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

In the present invention, as the present claim amendments emphasize, a user who wants access to the network has a single user identifier (such as a card and password, etc.) and once access to the system is authorized, that user identifier is provided with a plurality of user profiles. That is, when a user inputs the user's identifier, the network security controller will generate a plurality of user profiles for that single user identifier. This is in contrast to the Garfinkel UNIX system where simply multiple "user identifiers" can be issued, but each such user identifier is associated with only a single set of privileges. That is, for the user identifier of the

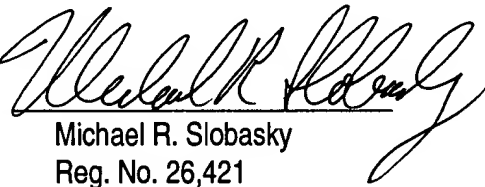
Garfinkel UNIX system, the user would not have access to multiple privileges. The Garfinkel system only provides for different user identifiers, in contrast to the present invention wherein a single user identifier can have multiple profiles. With this system, better security is provided since only a single user identifier need be issued and the system will then enable a plurality of user profiles for that user identifier. This enables a single user identifier to have access to different virtual private networks. Nothing in Garfinkel would suggest this and any combination with Boyle is not suggested by the Garfinkel reference.

In the present invention, the user, *i.e.*, a single user identifier, is provided with different user profiles which define different destinations. The user profiles enable access to specific destinations. The UNIX system in Garfinkel is a single system. It does not enable or used with systems that create virtual private networks.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions after reviewing the Amendment, the Examiner is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,

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